GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2450
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
BAN ON MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE (AJINOMOTO)
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether monosodium glutamate (Ajinomoto) a taste enhance is a proven health hazard;

(b) whether the Government had contemplated a ban on Ajinomoto long back;

(c) the decision to ban the use and import of Ajinomoto was deferred;

(d) whether the Government are still considering to clamp a ban on the same; and

(e) if so, the time by when?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) Monosodium Glutamate, a flavour enhancer is considered as a Safe Food additiveby Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives of FAO/WHO food standard programme.

(b) & (c) According to Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce,the import of Monosodium Glutamate (Ajinomoto) is free and there was no proposal to ban the import during the last year.

(d)&(e) At present there is no proposal to ban the import and use of Ajinomoto.